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K372

ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	A-00	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00
	CTME-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	WHA-00	DS-00
	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VCI-00	H-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	CAC-00
	M-00	VCIE-00	NRC-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NSCE-00	OCS-00
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/001W	
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4217

INFO EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B2

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 002422

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/31/06

TAGS: PREL, PTER, PHUM, SY, CA, UK

SUBJECT: BBC PRESSES STRAW TO ASK MORE OF U.S. ON
RENDITIONS (ARAR CASE)

Classified By: DCM David T. Johnson for reasons 1.4(b,d)

1. (U) On March 31, as the Secretary visited North West England as the guest of Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, the BBC ran an interview with its security correspondent Gordon Corera about renditions and the use of British airspace. The interview focused on the case of Maher Arar, now in Canada, and his allegation that he had been arrested at JFK, sent to Rome, transported to Syria and tortured. Corera also interviewed a Chris Yates (nfi) who said the plane on which Arar was transported was a Gulfstream G3, with a limited flight capacity such that the plane would have to have passed over UK airspace in its transit to Rome. Corera said a request had been made of the British Foreign Office about HMG's knowledge of the Arar case and that the reply had been that there were no files on this case. He suggested that HMG was engaged in a policy of deniability and that it was obliged to ask more of the U.S. about the use of UK airspace. The December remarks by the Secretary that "torture and conspiracy to commit torture are crimes under U.S. law" were repeated in the interview. The piece concluded with the suggestion that Straw seek more information about the use of UK airspace for renditions and on the Arar case specifically.

2. (C) Comment: This interview marked the return of the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. HEDGBETH, DAS, A/ISS

REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

DECLASSIFY AFTER: 31 MAR 2016

DATE/CASE ID: 13 MAY 2009 200706444

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issue of rendition as a high-level issue in the press,
renditions having been bumped off the public screen upon the
release of the UN report on Guantanamo.

B1

B2

Tuttle

NNNN

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